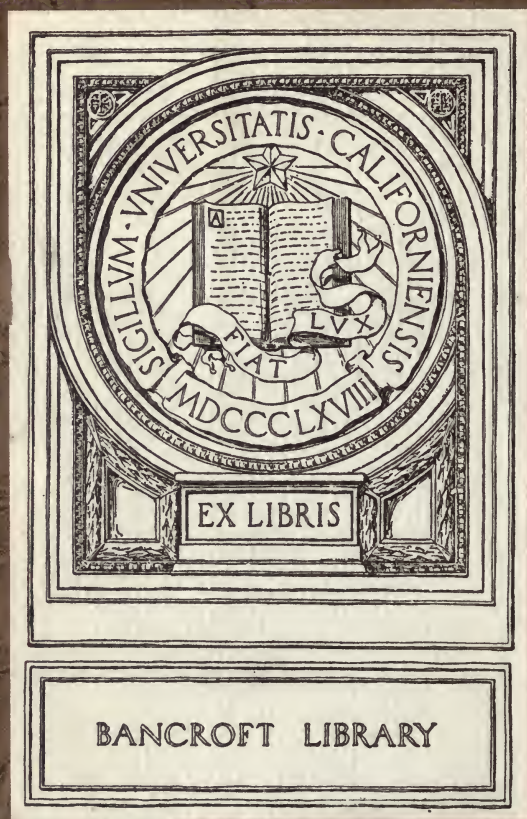


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THE AMERICAN FLAG IN MEXICO.

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THE

HISTORY OF THE RAISING

OF

THE FIRST AMERICAN FLAG

ON

THE CAPITOL OF MEXICO.

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PROCEEDINGS IN THE UNITED STATES SENATE.

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## THE AMERICAN FLAG IN MEXICO.

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### IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES,

On the 31st day of December, A. D. 1855, Mr. Foot, Senator from Vermont, introduced, with some appropriate remarks, the following resolution, to wit:

*Resolved*, That the report of Benjamin S. Roberts, captain of the rifles, made to General Twiggs, on returning to him the American flag which had been the first planted upon the capitol of Mexico, and which he had intrusted to the keeping of Captain Roberts in the storming of Chepultepec, and the taking of the city of Mexico, bearing date "City of Mexico, 17th September, 1847," be taken from the files in the office of the secretary of the Senate, and be printed; and that the president *pro tempore* of the Senate cause an engrossed copy thereof to be deposited in the Department of State with the flag whose history it gives, and which has already been deposited in said department by order of the Senate.

Mr. FOOT moved to refer the resolution to the committee on military affairs.

Mr. BROWN, of Mississippi, expressing a wish to make some remarks on the subject, the motion was laid over until the 7th day of January, 1856, when the following proceedings took place on the subject:

COLONEL BENJAMIN S. ROBERTS.

Mr. FOOT. I ask the Senate now to proceed to the consideration of the resolution which I introduced this day week, in reference to Colonel Roberts. I understand that the senator from Mississippi (Mr. BROWN) desires to submit some remarks upon it before it shall be referred to the committee on military affairs, that being the motion now pending. I also introduced, at the same time, a joint resolution to request the President to cause a sword, with suitable devices, to be presented to Colonel Roberts, in testimony of the high sense entertained by Congress of his gallantry and good conduct at the storming of Chepultepec and the taking of the city of Mexico; but, inasmuch as the Senate are acting upon a determination not to receive bills or resolutions, requiring the co-ordinate action of the other House, until that branch of Congress shall be organized, that joint resolution is withdrawn for the time being.

The motion was agreed to, and the Senate resumed the consideration of the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the report of Benjamin S. Roberts, captain of the rifles, made to General Twiggs, on returning to him the American flag which had been the first planted upon the capitol of Mexico, and which he had intrusted to the keeping of Captain Roberts in the storming of Chepultepec, and the taking of the city of Mexico, bearing date "city of Mexico, 17th September, 1847," be taken from the files in the office of the secretary of the Senate, and be printed; and that the President *pro tempore* of the Senate cause an engrossed copy thereof to be deposited in the Department of State with the flag whose history it gives, and which has already been deposited in said department by order of the Senate.

The pending question was on Mr. Foot's motion to refer the resolution to the Committee on Military Affairs.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, it will be recollected by the older members of this body that the flag mentioned in the resolution was introduced into the Senate on the second of June, 1848, by Mr. Davis, then Senator from Mississippi, and now Secretary of War. On the 1st of July of that year, as is shown by the journal, he presented a document in relation to that flag. The document then presented is the one which is now called for from the files by the Senator from Vermont. On the introduction of that document, as is shown by the debates in Congress, a discussion arose in the Senate between Mr. Davis and Mr. Foote, of Mississippi, which the curious on that subject may find at page 890 of the Congressional Globe of that year. I shall not detain the Senate by reading it: it is sufficient for me to remark that Senator Foot thought that, in the paper which was then presented, injustice was done to Major General Quitman, who commanded the forces under whom, and at the head of whom, the first flag was placed upon the capitol of Mexico. The paper which is offered does not disclose the fact that General Quitman was in the action at all, had anything to do with the command, or gave any orders which led to the planting of that flag upon the wall of Mexico. Because of this unintentional injustice—I am willing to admit that it is unintentional—to the major general commanding the forces, Senators at that day objected to having this paper placed upon the files of the State Department, as giving the correct history of the transaction. It is noted in the debates that an angry controversy arose in reference to it. That portion of the debates has been suppressed, and very properly suppressed, in my judgment.

As I intend to make the paper part of my remarks—I mean the one alluded to by the Senator from Vermont, which he desires to have printed, and enrolled on parchment, and filed in the State Department—I send it to the Secretary's desk, and ask to have it read.

The Secretary read it, as follows:

CITY OF MEXICO, September 17, 1847.

SIR: I have the honor to return the American flag you intrusted to my keeping in the storming of Chepultepec and the taking of the city of Mexico. Your charge to me was: "I expect that flag to be the first planted upon the capitol of Mexico." The commission has been executed, and the first American flag that ever floated upon the palace of the capitol of Mexico is now returned to you.

It was also the first planted on the five-gun battery, stormed and carried by my assaulting party at the left of the enemy's lines at Chepultepec.

It was also the first planted on the battery stormed and carried by the rifle regiment, between Chepultepec and the Garita.

It was also the first planted on the batteries at the Garita, and the first on the citadel of the city.

It was carried by Sergeant Manly, of "F" company, whom I selected to bear so distinguished a flag, and the anticipations I entertained of his doing honor to the banner of his country were not disappointed. I desire to commend him to your special consideration.

This flag would have been returned through him, but for a severe wound which confines him to his quarters. It is proper that I should state that I was not with the flag when planted on the battery at the Garita, and when planted on the battery between the Garita and the city, having been detained to guard the prisoners taken at the five-gun battery assaulted by my storming party. On inspection you will perceive that this flag has been pierced six times by the balls of the enemy.

I have the honor to be, with high regard, &c.,

B. S. ROBERTS,  
Captain Rifles.

General D. E. TWIGGS,  
Commanding Second Division.



Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, it will be seen, from the reading of that letter, that I was correct in saying that it makes no mention whatever of Major General Quitman. Captain Roberts seems to have received this flag from General Twiggs, who was not in command at the time when this service was performed. It will be further remarked, that Captain Roberts states in his dispatch that the flag was "the first planted on the five-gun battery stormed and carried by the rifle regiment between Chepultepec and the Garita." He also says that it was "the first planted on the batteries at the Garita, and the first on the citadel of Mexico." He afterwards remarks, however—

"It is proper that I should state that I was not with the flag when planted on the battery at the Garita, and when planted on the battery between the Garita and the city."

If Colonel Roberts was not present, the history of the transaction ought to state how he came in possession of the fact, that this precise flag was the first raised at those two points, for he admits himself not to have been personally present, and, therefore, he must have derived his information from some other quarter. Out of that has grown some controversy in which I do not wish to entangle myself; but it is better, when we are settling a transaction of this sort, in which the reputation of gentlemen who have rendered distinguished services to the country is somewhat involved, to turn our attention to the report of the general-in-chief. I ask that the committee who shall have this question in charge will turn their attention to Major General Scott's report, dated "Headquarters of the army, National Palace of Mexico, September 18, 1847," to be found in the first volume of Senate documents, first session Thirtieth Congress, 1847 and 1848, beginning at page 375. From that paper it will be seen that the general-in-chief, after giving an account of certain consultations between officers of the army, and stating the views expressed by them, says:

"Those views I repeatedly in the course of the day communicated to Major General Quitman; but being in hot pursuit—gallant himself and ably supported by Brigadier Generals Shields and Smith—Shields badly wounded before Chepultepec and refusing to retire—as well as by all the officers and men of the column, Quitman continued to press forward under flank and direct fires; carried an intermediate battery of two guns, and then the gate, before two o'clock in the afternoon, but not without proportionate loss, increased by his steady maintenance of that position."

After giving some further account of the day's transactions, he says:

"Quitman within the city, adding several defences to the position he had won, and sheltering his corps as well as practicable, now awaited the result of daylight under the guns of the formidable citadel, yet to be subdued."

After the whole fighting was over, General Scott gives an account of a visit of a deputation of the city—the city council—who waited upon him for the purpose of surrendering the city on terms which he promptly rejected, and insisted upon taking it upon his own terms, After the interview, he says:

"At the termination of the interview with the city deputation, I communicated, about daylight, orders to Worth and Quitman to advance slowly and cautiously (to guard against treachery) towards the heart of the city, and to occupy its stronger and more commanding points. *Quitman proceeded to the great plaza or square, planted guards, and hoisted the colors of the United States on the national palace, containing the halls of Congress and executive departments of federal Mexico.*"

Now, sir, when it is proposed to do honor to national flags because they were first planted upon the walls of Mexico, I do not choose that

the name of the major general in command, especially when that major general is a distinguished citizen of my own State, shall be wholly omitted from the record without some effort on my part, as his representative in this body, to see justice done him. I am as willing as the Senator from Vermont to award all possible honors to Captain Roberts, but I will never consent to see the honors of the nation bestowed upon a captain in the line to the exclusion of his major general; and especially when, in doing honor to that captain, for aught that appears on the paper, Major General Twiggs, who was not in the field at all upon that occasion, is represented as the general who gave the order to bear the flag. Sir, the man who in after years shall examine the archives of the State Department and find this paper there, if he knew nothing else of the transaction, would be very apt to conclude that Major General Twiggs was in command, and that Major General Quitman was not in the field at all, whereas the reverse was the case.

I hope that the committee who shall have this question in charge will sift it to the bottom. Let Captain (now Colonel) Roberts have all the honor that is due to him. Heaven knows I would not pluck a solitary leaf from the laurel that adorns his brow. That he is a gallant soldier, I am perfectly willing and ready to admit. That he exposed his person and endangered his life in defence of his country I am as ready to acknowledge as the Senator from Vermont. But I am not willing to admit that he planted the first flag that was ever placed upon the walls of Mexico, and did it of his own will—or by the order of Major General Twiggs.

Sir, I have here a letter to which these squabbles gave rise when this question was up before. It is a letter written by Captain Roberts himself, dated St. Louis, Missouri, July 12, 1848. I send it to the Secretary's desk, and ask to have it read. I present this letter as the true history of the transaction rather than the one which is found on the files, and which my friend from Vermont proposes to honor. Although it does not, I think, come up to the history of the transaction as detailed by Major General Scott, the general-in-chief, it does make honorable mention of General Quitman, who was in command.

The Secretary read the letter as follows :

ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI, July 12, 1848.

*To the Editor of the Union:*

I have noticed, through the Washington correspondent of the Journal of Commerce, of date July 1st, giving the debate in the Senate of that day, that misunderstandings, out of which difficulties may grow, have arisen between the friends of Generals Twiggs and Quitman touching the *flag* presented by General Twiggs to Congress. It may be proper before mischief can arise; or these misunderstandings grow further, to correct the errors that seem to be entertained relating to the history of this flag. *I know its entire history. It is as follows:*

On the 12th of September General Smith called for two hundred and fifty picked men from General Twigg's division, as a storming party for the assault of Chepultepec. I was selected by General Smith to command the party from his brigade, and, after the party was organized, was taken by him to General Twiggs' headquarters, where was this flag, which General Twiggs gave to me, saying in substance, among other things, "This is a flag I wish to go with the storming party from my division. Let me hear that it is the first flag on Chepultepec, in the city, and on the capitol." Six non-commissioned officers and privates were selected from the rifle regiment to bear this flag at the head of the storming column.

The storming party from this division (commanded by Captain Casey, second infantry) reported to General Scott at Tacubaya before sundown, and was assigned to the com-

mand of General Quitman; and from that time until the flag was raised upon the capitol it was under his control, and all the movements of the storming party carrying it were under his eye and directions.

This storming party stormed and carried the strong five-gun battery commanding the Tacubaya road at the base of the hill in the rear of Chepultepec, and *this flag was the first planted on that battery*. It was also *the first flag* planted on the strong battery midway on the road between Chepultepec and the Garita of Belen, which was stormed and carried by the rifle regiment, supported by the South Carolina regiment. It was also *the first flag* planted on the Garita of Belen, which work was also stormed by the rifle regiment, supported by General Smith's entire brigade and General Quitman's entire division. The storming of these three batteries was directed by *General Quitman* in person, with the assistance and support of General Smith.

The fighting of the 13th ended with the day; and at daylight next morning, General Quitman formed his division, (General Smith's brigade in front,) and entered the city. He took possession of the citadel; and by his order, delivered to me through General Smith, this flag was raised above that mighty fortress. The division advanced, led by Generals Quitman and Smith on foot, and took possession of the Capitol, when this flag, by the order of General Quitman delivered to me by a staff-officer, was raised, displaying *the first American banner* above the National Palace of Mexico. This is the entire history of the flag. I understood it to be the property of General Twiggs, and at his request returned it to him with my written report. It was borne in these actions by troops of his division, detached from his immediate command, and placed under the orders of General Quitman.

If *this flag* is to become of any historical interest, its history should be truly told; and if any merit is supposed to attach to the fortune or accident of raising the first flag upon the Capitol of Mexico, it is just to General Quitman to have it known it was done by troops he commanded in person and under his orders.

I am, sir, very truly yours,

B. S. ROBERTS, *Captain Rifles.*

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, if that had been the report which it was proposed to print by order of Congress, and to transcribe on parchment and file in the State Department, as containing the true history of this flag, there would probably have been no controversy about it. Here Captain Roberts again repeats that it was the first flag planted at three different points, but he admits himself not to have been at two of them. He omits to mention how he came into possession of the knowledge of those facts, but they are yet of sufficient consequence to have given rise to controversy, and there is difference of opinion as to whether it was the first flag planted on these points. To that matter I beg to call the attention of the committee, when they shall take this subject into consideration. I desire that the letter which has just been read by the Secretary, at my request, shall go to the committee, and shall be considered by them in connexion with this subject.

With these remarks, I am willing to let the subject go to the committee. If credit is due to General Quitman, I want him to have it. If it is not due to him, I know he would scorn to take it. And now, it is but just to him to say that, though he is a member of the House of Representatives, I have not made these remarks at his request, nor by his solicitation, nor even with his knowledge; but his reputation belongs to the State of Mississippi, and, as one of her Senators here, I have felt bound to protect it.

Mr. FOOT. Mr. President, I do not intend to prolong this discussion in anticipation of the action of the Committee on Military Affairs—a very proper tribunal to investigate any question that may arise between conflicting claimants for the honor of being concerned in planting the first national flag of the United States on the palace walls of Mexico. It will be recollected that upon the introduction of the resolution, so far from calling for the action of the Senate upon it, I accompanied it with a motion to refer it to the appropriate com-

mittee, the Committee on Military Affairs, for their investigation and report. It is proper, perhaps, that I should say that at the time of the introduction of the resolution I was not apprised of the existence of conflicting claims to this honor. I knew that by the order of the Senate the flag had been deposited in the archives of the State Department. I knew that it had been presented to the Senate by the present head of the War Department, Mr. Davis, then a member of this body from the State of Mississippi. I knew that he had received it from General Twiggs, and that Colonel Roberts, then captain of the rifles, had returned it to General Twiggs, from whom he received it, giving its history so far forth as it is given in that report. I stated the history of the flag to the Senate as disclosed in the documents appended to the few remarks which I submitted the other day, among which are extracts from the report of General Quitman, in which he himself appears to have placed Colonel Roberts at the head of the storming party under whom that flag was first raised upon the walls of Mexico, but undoubtedly by the direction of General Quitman at the time; and therein there is no controversy between the parties in respect to the exactness of the transaction as it occurred, in my judgment; but, if there are any points of controversy between these or other parties, claimants to this honor, it is preeminently proper that the matter should undergo the proposed examination by the Committee on Military Affairs.

It is proper that I should add further, that if there be any implied or inferential injustice done to General Quitman in the report of Colonel Roberts, by the omission of the mention of his name in these transactions, it is, in my judgment, altogether unintentional and accidental on his part; for I say what I know when I declare that no man in this country entertains for the personal and public character of General Quitman as a citizen, as a general, and as a hero, higher esteem than Colonel Roberts himself. His claim to the honor of having, by his own hand, first raised the national flag upon the palace walls of Mexico, rests mainly upon the testimony of General Quitman himself.

The motion to refer the resolution to the Committee on Military Affairs was agreed to.

On the 6th March, Mr. WELLER, of California, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Military Affairs, made the following report:

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

MARCH 6, 1856.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. WELLER made the following (adverse)

REPORT.

[To accompany Joint Resolution S. No. 1.]

*The Committee on Military Affairs make the following report:*

On the 7th of January last there was referred to this committee a resolution of the Senate, as follows:

*Resolved*, That the report of Benjamin S. Roberts, captain of the rifles, made to General Twiggs, on returning to him the American flag which had been the first planted upon the capitol of Mexico, and which he had intrusted to the keeping of Captain Roberts in the storming of Chepultepec, and the taking of the city of Mexico, bearing date "City of Mexico, 17th September, 1847," be taken from the files in the office of the Secretary of the Senate, and be printed; and that the President *pro tempore* of the Senate cause an engrossed copy thereof to be deposited in the Department of State with the flag whose history it gives, and which has already been deposited in said department by order of the Senate.

And on the 4th February last the following joint resolution (S. R. No. 1) was also referred to this committee:

*Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That the President of the United States be requested to cause a sword, with suitable devices, to be presented to Colonel Benjamin S. Roberts, in testimony of the high sense entertained by Congress of his gallantry and good conduct at the storming of Chepultepec and in the taking of the city of Mexico."

After the unsuccessful bombardment of Chepultepec, on September 12, 1847, the general-in-chief (Major General Scott) determined to storm the works on the succeeding day. A detail was accordingly made from the commands of Major Generals Quitman and Pillow. Captain (now Colonel) Benj. S. Roberts, of the rifles, was placed at the head of the storming party detailed from General Smith's brigade. When they were about to start on their perilous mission, a stand of national colors was placed, by General Twiggs, in Colonel Robert's hands with the charge, "I expect this flag to be the first planted upon the capitol of Mexico." This flag, under the direction of Captain Roberts, was borne by Sergeant Manly of the rifles, and it is

alleged to have been the first flag displayed at the five-gun battery, (at the base of Chepultepec,) to have been the first planted upon the four-gun battery, (between Chepultepec and the Garita de Belen,) to have been the first on the batteries of the Garita; first upon the citadel of Mexico, and "the first American flag that ever floated upon the palace of the Mexican capitol."

Captain Roberts subsequently returned this flag to General Twiggs with the following letter:

CITY OF MEXICO, *September 17, 1847.*

SIR: I have the honor to return the American flag you intrusted to my keeping in the storming of Chepultepec and the taking of the city of Mexico. Your charge to me was: "I expect that *flag* to be the *first* planted upon the capitol of Mexico." The commission has been executed, and the first American flag that ever floated upon the palace of the capitol of Mexico is now returned to you.

It was also the *first* planted on the five-gun battery, stormed and carried by my assaulting party at the left of the enemies lines at Chepultepec.

It was also the *first* planted on the battery, stormed and carried by the rifle regiment, between Chepultepec and the Garita.

It was also the *first* planted on the batteries at the Garita, and the *first* on the citadel of the city.

It was carried by Sergeant Manly, of "F" company, whom I selected to bear so distinguished a flag, and the anticipations I entertained of his doing honor to the banner of his country were not disappointed. I desire to commend him to your special consideration.

This flag would have been returned through him, but for a severe wound which confines him to his quarters. It is proper that I should state that I was not with the flag when planted on the battery at the Garita, and when planted on the battery between the Garita and the city, having been detained to guard the prisoners taken at the five-gun battery assaulted by my storming party. On inspection, you will perceive that this flag has been pierced six times by the balls of the enemy.

I have the honor to be, with high regard, &c.,

B. S. ROBERTS,  
*Captain Rifles.*

General D. E. TWIGGS,  
*Commanding Second Division.*

On the 2d of June, 1848, this flag was presented by Senator Davis, of Mississippi, in the name of General Twiggs, to Congress, and it was ordered to be deposited in the Department of State. On the 1st of July, 1848, the letter of Captain Roberts, given above, was presented to the Senate and laid upon the table.

The resolution now submitted proposes to engross that letter on parchment, with a view to its being filed with the flag in the State Department.

The committee have maturely examined this subject, and are satisfied that Captain Roberts has fallen into some errors in stating the history of this flag.

In order to ascertain the facts in the case, the committee called upon some of the principal officers who were engaged with the army at the points named in the letter, and all of them deny having seen this flag displayed at the four-gun battery, or at the Garita de Belen, or on the citadel. The only flag raised at the Garita de Belen was that of the Palmetto regiment, and it was there displayed under the personal order of General Quitman, by Lieutenant Selleck (who was severely wounded in doing so) of the South Carolina regiment.

On the morning of the 14th September, the rifles were placed in advance and moved towards the city. From the statements of General Quitman and Major Crittenden, it appears that the *regimental* colors were displayed on the citadel during a short halt. Colonel Geary was directed by General Quitman to occupy the citadel, over which he hoisted the colors of one of the companies of his regiment, while the column moved on to the heart of the city.

In regard to the hoisting of the flag at the Grand Plaza, the committee refer to the statement of General Quitman. Although a regimental flag had been displayed from the window of the palace for a moment, it is undeniable that Captain Roberts, under the immediate orders of General Quitman, was the first to display our national emblem from the staff upon the Mexican capitol.

It is due to Captain Roberts to say that he does not pretend to have been with the flag after the fall of the five-gun battery, until it had passed the gates of the city.

A portion of his letter was, therefore, based upon information received from others, which the committee believe to be erroneous.

The committee do not regard the letter of Captain Roberts as portraying such a history of that flag as ought to be engrossed in the manner proposed by the resolution.

The letter, however, with the statements of distinguished officers, will now be published, and will become a part of our national archives. Those who, in after years, look upon the flag and desire to know the incidents connected with it, can turn to these statements, and to that history which records the deeds of our gallant countrymen in the valley of Mexico, and obtain perhaps much more satisfactory information than this letter could afford.

In regard to the joint resolution, which proposes to give a sword to Captain Roberts, the committee are also constrained, by a sense of justice to other gallant and equally meritorious men, to report adversely to it.

That Captain Roberts displayed great gallantry in the several contests in which he was engaged with the storming party on the 13th September is beyond question, and full credit was given to him in the official report of his superior officers; and his conduct has been duly appreciated and acknowledged by Congress by conferring upon him two brevets, major and lieutenant colonel.

In the attack upon the five-gun battery he was the third in command, although he was at the head of the advance company. Captain Casey of the 2d infantry commanded the storming party after its organization, and fell severely wounded. Captain Paul succeeded to the command, and there is no reason to induce Congress to discriminate between these officers and Captain Roberts.

One of the hardest fought battles was at Garita de Belen, in which the gallant commander of the rifles (Colonel Loring) lost an arm. Captain Roberts was not in this assault, having been left, as he states, at the five-gun battery to guard the prisoners detained at that point.

The series of battles fought in the immediate vicinity of the city of Mexico terminated by the withdrawal of the Mexican troops on the night of the 13th of September. On the morning of the 14th our army marched into the city without resistance, and then, as before stated, our national flag was hoisted over the Mexican capitol. As the firing on both sides had ceased some hours previously, there was neither danger to encounter nor personal risk to run in performing this duty, honorable as it certainly was, but by no means so hazardous as to deserve the especial commendation of Congress. When field and company officers vied with each other in deeds of heroism and valor, it would be unjust to discriminate between them. The names of all these brave men will occupy the brightest page in our country's history, and, with their daring exploits, will be treasured up by the American people.

The only officers in the Mexican war to whom swords have been presented by Congress are Generals Taylor, Quitman, Worth, Twiggs, Butler, Henderson, Wool, and Hamer. None of these officers held rank below brigadier general.

The committee, anxious to investigate this subject as fully as possible, called upon officers who were in the field and in positions which enabled them to observe all that transpired, for written statements, which they have very kindly furnished, and which, in justice to all concerned, the committee append hereto, as a part of this report, as constituting the most reliable history of the American flag in Mexico; and the committee ask to be discharged from the further consideration of the subject.

For correct information as to the relative position of the places referred to in these reports, see Ex. Doc. No. 1, 1st session 30th Congress, and the map accompanying General Quitman's official report, at page 408.

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WASHINGTON, *February 9, 1856.*

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a note from your clerk, enclosing a copy of a proposed resolution, submitted to the consideration of that committee, and also enclosing a copy of a letter from Colonel B. S. Roberts, of the rifles, to General Twiggs, dated city of Mexico, September 17, 1847, in relation to the first flag planted on the five-gun battery at the base of Chapultepec, the battery between that fortress and the gates of Mexico, the batteries at the Garita or gate Belen, the citadel, and lastly the Capitol of Mexico, and requesting such information as I may possess in regard to these matters.

As the commander of that portion of the army, in Mexico, which stormed and carried these batteries on the 13th September, 1847, and on the following day planted the flag of our country first on the citadel, and finally on the national palace of Mexico, I feel it my duty



to furnish the committee with such facts, within my own knowledge, as may appear to be within your inquiry.

A simple narrative will, perhaps, best meet your views; but to avoid repetition and unnecessary explanations, I beg leave to refer the committee, as a part of my answer, to my official report of the operations of that portion of the army under my command, at the time of the memorable occurrences alluded to. This report is to be found in vol. 2, Ex. Doc., 1st sess. 30th Cong., page 409 to 420; also, to Generals Smith's and Shields' reports to me, page 223 to 228, of same volume; and to enable the committee to comprehend the points referred to in Colonel Roberts' statement, and also in this narrative, I refer them to the descriptive plan drawn by Lieutenant Tower, engineers, which accompanies my official report.

After the bombardment of the strong fortress of Chepultepec during the whole day of the 12th September, 1847, General Scott determined to carry that work by storm on the following morning.

General Pillow was directed, with his division, to assault on the west, and I was ordered to storm it on the south side. To strengthen my column of attack, a battalion of two hundred and fifty men and thirteen officers, who had volunteered for this desperate service, reported to me from General Twiggs' division. This temporary battalion of stormers, under command of Captain Casey, second infantry, though irregularly organized, carried with them a small stand of American colors, the property of General Twiggs, which it appears Captain (now Colonel) Roberts had received from his hands for this temporary purpose. This battalion of regulars, with a similarly raised corps of stormers from my own, the volunteer division, under command of Major Levi Twiggs, of the marines, accompanied by a pioneer corps of seventy men, under Captain Reynolds, bearing ladders, crows, and pickaxes, were on the morning of the 13th placed by me at the head of the column of attack upon the fortress of Chepultepec. These storming parties were supported by the battalion of marines, under command of Lieutenant Colonel Watson. The remainder of my division proper, consisting of the South Carolina and New York regiments, under General Shields, and the second Pennsylvania regiment, (Colonel Geary,) having been directed to scale the walls on the left, and General Smith's brigade, which had been placed under my command, having been posted on the right to protect the column of attack from a large body of the enemy who threatened our right flank, the storming parties were ordered to advance against the five-gun battery at the base of the hill, where the aqueduct joins the wall, (A on the plan.)

These works, though defended with great obstinacy by some of the best Mexican troops, under their veteran General Bravo, were gallantly carried. Major Twiggs was here killed and Captain Casey severely wounded. These casualties devolved the command upon Captain Paul, seventh infantry, as senior officer, Captain Roberts, of the rifles, being second in command of the stormers, and leading the advanced company. The conduct of both these officers fell under my immediate observation, and deserved the high commendation which I have bestowed in my official report. The flag referred to did not attract my particular attention, but I have no doubt it was the first car-

ried over that battery, although no flag was strictly planted there, the troops moving on so soon as the works were carried.

As it is not contended that the flag in question was carried up the hill, I pass over the fall of the strong fortress of Chepultepec, which soon succeeded the capture of the batteries.

Having the preceding night received discretionary powers from the general-in-chief, and being firmly convinced in my own mind that the fate of our gallant little army in the valley of Mexico, depended upon the speedy capture of the enemy's capitol, I determined to move the whole column then under my command, directly on the city, by the Tacubaya causeway, leading through the Garita Belen into Mexico.

The rifle regiment, commanded by Major Loring, was accordingly prolonged on that road towards the city, and so soon as the other regiments could be resupplied with ammunition, which had been expended in the assault of Chepultepec, they were rapidly advanced in the same direction.

Before us on the causeway was a battery of four guns, (B.) This work, defended vigorously by a considerable Mexican force, was gallantly carried by the rifle regiment, with the aid of a captured 8-inch howitzer, served by the lamented Captain Drum, 4th artillery, who fell at the Garita. The standard of the rifles, and I presume also the flag in question, passed through that work, but I saw no colors planted there.

There was still before us the Garita, (Belen,) or gate of the city, (C,) itself a strong work, with parapet and ditch on one side of the aqueduct, and a zigzag redan on the other, defended not only by the formidable citadel of Mexico, (D,) but by batteries at the gate (C) on the Paseo (H) and at the entrance of a street, (I.) These various works mounted 24 pieces of artillery besides several movable, and were defended by a very large Mexican force. My whole command then consisted of Shield's brigade, (volunteers,) Smith's brigade, 2d Pennsylvania regiment, (Colonel Geary,) Marine battalion, 9th regiment (Major Seymour) of Pierce's brigade, part of 6th regiment of infantry, (Major Bonneville,) and a detachment of 4th artillery under Captain Drum.

On the reorganization of the column at this point, about three-quarters of a mile from the city, the rifles and South Carolina regiments were placed in lead of the column, followed by the remainder of the volunteer division and Smith's brigade, in the order mentioned in my official report. The flag referred to may have been with the column. I saw but the regular colors of the two leading regiments.

Thus re-formed and prepared, this stern and resolute column advanced to the severe duty before them. Soiled with dust and smoke, and begrimed with blood, the officers on foot with the men, they moved on to the charge with banners furled, and no music but the roar of cannon and the rattling roll of small arms.

Within two hundred yards of the Garita, Major Loring, the gallant commander of the rifles, being severely wounded, the command of that regiment devolved on Captain, [now Major] Crittenden, as the senior officer present; Captain Simonson, who was there, as elsewhere, at the head of the column, having commanded for a short time. In

this last bloody and decisive charge Captain Roberts did not participate, having been detained at Chepultepec. The Garita was taken on a charge at full run, at twenty minutes past one o'clock. Anxious to wave up the whole column, with the view of entering the citadel pell-mell with the retreating enemy, I called for colors. The Palmetto flag was the first reported to me, and by my orders Lieutenant Selleck, of the South Carolina regiment, then on my staff as ordnance officer, was ordered to display that flag on the Garita. In doing so he was severely wounded. About the same time the flag of the rifle regiment was displayed on the other side of the aqueduct. The small national flag referred to by Colonel Roberts did not meet my eye. If it was with the regiment on this charge, it must have passed into the gate about the same time, but was not displayed there. No flag was regularly planted at this point but that of the Palmetto regiment, and that was done, not for idle ceremony, but as a signal to the whole army that the gates of the "Sacred City" were in our possession. The brave officers and men, and the gallant rival regiments, who had participated in this glorious achievement, were too well aware that there was yet too much work before them, to waste time in mere ceremony.

After an arduous day, under the very guns of the citadel and adjacent batteries, resisting repeated bold attempts of the enemy to dislodge us, the night was consumed in constructing and mounting formidable batteries at the Garita, (CC,) to operate on the enemy's works in the morning.

At break of day on the morning of the 14th a white flag announced the surrender of the enemy's stronghold, the citadel, (D.) After sending forward Lieutenants Beauregard and Lovell of my staff, both wounded, to guard against treachery, I put the column in motion, General Smith's brigade in front, leaving the South Carolina regiment much crippled and reduced in numbers, their brave commander, Major Gladden, severely wounded at the Garita, and Captain R. G. M. Donovant in command, as a garrison at that important point. On entering the citadel the second Pennsylvania regiment (Colonel Geary) was there left in garrison to secure and protect this key of the city. I do not recollect seeing the flag in question at the citadel. Captain Crittenden then received permission to display the colors of his regiment on that strong work, and if requested by Captain Roberts, which I do not now remember, I doubt not I extended the same courtesy to his flag.

From this point my command, led by General Smith and myself on foot, General Shields having been severely wounded the preceding day, marched through some of the principal streets of the city, the rifles in front, to the grand plaza, where the column was halted, the troops occupying two sides of the square in front of the national palace, as designated on the plot in *red*.

After entering the palace in person for a few moments, anxious to impress the immense multitude of Mexicans who were looking down on the spectacle from the balconies, windows and roofs of houses, with the importance of the ceremony, I directed the column to be wheeled into line, formed and dressed, with officers to the front, for the purpose of saluting the proud flag of our country so soon as it should be

displayed from the flagstaff over the palace, and at the same time directed my principal staff officer, Lieutenant M. Lovell, to have the standard of our country, the stars and stripes, and not any regimental colors, placed on the flagstaff over the palace. While these movements were going on I saw the colors of the rifle regiment carried forward by some officer into the great entrance of the palace, and before I could check the movement that flag was waved for a moment from the balcony of the second story of that building.

My staff officer having selected Captain Roberts to place our national colors over the Mexican palace, that officer proceeded immediately to execute the duty, and used for that purpose the small flag alluded to. When this symbol of our country's dominion over the enemy's capitol was run up and floated proudly from its staff, arms were presented by the whole line, salutes offered by the officers, and regimental colors lowered.

The small flag in question remained floating for about half an hour, when General Worth, who had advanced from the St. Cosmé road to the Alameda, had the kindness to send me a larger stand of national colors; the same which, I understood, had floated over Fort Brown, on the Rio Grande, while its small but gallant garrison were besieged there awaiting the return of General Taylor. This flag, from its size being better suited to that proud position, was then, by my orders, substituted for the smaller flag, and remained floating over the palace until a new large stand of colors, made by the fair hands of American ladies in Mexico, was, by my orders, under the direction of Captain Naylor, of the Pennsylvania volunteers, who had acted most gallantly at the Garita, and been appointed Superintendent of the national palace, planted on the capitol and there floated in triumph, until the capital was evacuated by our troops on the conclusion of peace.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. A. QUITMAN.

The CHAIRMAN

*Of the Senate Committee on Military Affairs.*

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WASHINGTON, *January 28, 1856.*

GENTLEMEN: In compliance with the request of your committee, as conveyed to me by your clerk, J. F. Callan, Esq., in his note of the 15th instant, with the accompanying resolution of the Senate and the letter of Colonel B. S. Roberts, that I would communicate any knowledge I may have of the facts connected with the planting of the American flag upon the capitol of Mexico, I have the honor to make the following statement: I commanded the rifle regiment, which was a part of the brigade of General Smith and of the division of General Quitman, in the attack upon Chepultepec and the batteries leading to the Garita Belen by the Tacubaya causeway, on the 13th day of September, 1847. The brigade was prolonged on the right and rear of the division, the rifles on the right of the brigade, and advanced towards the aqueduct, in the direction of the foot of the hill, near where

the aqueduct leaves it. Here were the principal batteries of the enemy on this side of Chepultepec, referred to in the different reports of the general officers engaged. This movement also brought the rifles to the right of the storming party of Quitman's division. In the final attack upon these batteries the rifles were engaged in company with the stormers. As far as could be seen along the line, there appeared a general and combined movement, so rapid and enthusiastic that it was difficult to distinguish individual acts of gallantry, or the display of flags from batteries or breastworks. I saw no flag planted during the charge. The rifle flag accompanied the regiment, and upon it, after the charge, the rifles formed at the base of Chepultepec to prevent the escape of Mexicans, or to capture them and beat back the enemy's force then firing upon us from the causeway. At this point I noticed Lieutenant Stuart and a large portion of the storming party, which had been detailed from the rifles for that duty. At the fall of Chepultepec it was expected that the stormers would join their regiment, and those who did so, as a matter of course, became a part of my command, and were with the rest of the regiment in its charge upon the next battery, about half way between Chepultepec and the city. Soon after reaching the aqueduct General Quitman instructed me to move forward upon the causeway, in the direction of the next battery. In our advance movements from here, I frequently received instructions from this general in person, before which all orders had come to me from General Smith.—(See report of General Smith, dated city of Mexico, September 19, 1847.) The rifles charged and carried the middle battery by storm; I saw no flag planted, but saw that of the rifles immediately after it had passed the battery in the charge. I saw every individual who had passed over the breastwork before me, and had there been a flag planted, up to this time, I should have seen it. Had it occurred, the honor would have belonged to the rifles, as this regiment was in advance when the battery was carried.

From this point the rifles in advance continued a rapid pursuit of the retreating column to a distance of about one hundred and fifty yards from the Garita Belen, and about one mile from Chepultepec. A large force of the enemy was here discovered approaching on our right, under cover of some houses, for the purpose of outflanking us. The rifle regiment was here halted to await supporting forces, and an officer was sent to General Smith with information of the movement of the flanking party. The rifle regiment held this force in check, although exposed to their fire and that of the battery at the Garita, until Drum's battery opened upon them. It was immediately after that, being at the head of my regiment, I was joined by General Quitman, who was in the act of giving me instructions, when I lost an arm by a shot from the Garita Belen, and was carried to the rear by order of that general. The following are the names of the officers who were with the regiment in its operations: Captains John S. Simonson, Andrew Porter, J. B. Backenstor, S. Tucker, Lieutenants George McLane, R. M. Morris, J. P. Hatch, G. Granger, J. N. Palmer, Alfred Gibbs, James Stuart, and F. Russell. Captain George B. Crittenden joined from detached service soon after the middle battery was carried.

I have endeavored, as briefly as possible, to relate to you my observations on that day in connexion with the subject of your inquiry, in doing which I have been obliged, with some degree of detail, to enter into the movements of my regiment, with which I acted throughout.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
 W. W. LORING,  
*Brevet Colonel U. S. Army.*

To the honorable the COMMITTEE ON MILITARY AFFAIRS  
*Of the Senate of the United States.*

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WASHINGTON CITY, D. C., *January 28, 1856.*

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a communication from your clerk, enclosing a resolution of the Senate, and a copy of the letter of Captain B. S. Roberts, of the rifles, in which I am requested to communicate to the committee any knowledge I may have of the "facts" connected with the planting of the American flag upon the capitol of Mexico.

Few words will suffice to convey to you my knowledge of the facts connected with that event. On the evening of the 12th of September, 1847, I, then a captain in the regiment of mounted riflemen, was detached with my company on a special duty, and did not again join the regiment on the 13th, the day of the battle of Chapultepec, and of the attack upon the city of Mexico, until Chapultepec, the five gun-battery at its base, and the battery half way between it and the Garita Belen had been carried. From this point the rifle regiment, commanded and led by our gallant Major, now Colonel, Loring, and forming the head of General Quitman's division, to which it had been assigned preparatory to the attack upon Chapultepec, continued to advance along the arches of the aqueduct towards the Garita Belen, until we reached a point, where the enemy, from some huts which they occupied on the right of the aqueduct, obtained a flank fire upon us. Here the regiment was halted, whilst two pieces of artillery, commanded by Captain Drum, advanced from the rear and were placed "in battery" against the huts. About this time, Colonel Loring, whilst in consultation with General Quitman, at the head of the column, was badly wounded and borne from the field, thus devolving upon me, as next in rank, there present, the command of the regiment of riflemen, of which fact I informed General Quitman, upon his inquiry, and received orders accordingly. The enemy were soon driven from the huts on our right, when Captain Drum's guns were turned upon the Garita Belen, and the advance again commenced. The enemy being observed to waver at the Garita battery, a simultaneous rush was made from the length of the arches and the Garita was carried. General Quitman was here, as elsewhere, on that day, conspicuous for his gallantry. A short time after crossing the Garita, my attention was drawn to a flag displayed from the Garita battery, which I then understood, and now believe to have been the flag of the South Carolina regiment. I have no recollection

tion of seeing any other flag displayed from there. My own impression is, that when this flag was displayed from the battery, the flag of the rifle regiment had already been borne across the Garita on the left of the aqueduct, and into a stone building, the custom-house, on the city side of it, which the rifle regiment occupied after crossing. We continued in possession of the position which we had gained at the Garita, under a heavy fire and with considerable loss, until the morning of the 14th, when a little after daylight, the enemy sent to General Quitman a white flag, stating that the Mexican army had, during the night, withdrawn from the city. General Quitman immediately formed his division—the rifle regiment in advance—and marched forward as far as the citadel, where we were halted, when I asked, and obtained of General Quitman, permission to plant the flag of my regiment upon the citadel. It was accordingly sent and displayed from there, and I think was the only one so displayed, during our halt there of about half an hour. Again we advanced—the rifle regiment at the head of the column—upon the grand plaza. Before reaching it I gave directions that, upon our arrival there the flag of the regiment should be detached, and, if possible, displayed from the palace, which fronts upon the plaza. Accordingly, shortly after we reached the plaza, the flag of the regiment was displayed from the palace, when General Smith approached and censured me for having allowed the flag to leave the regiment, remarking that the national flag should have been first displayed. The regimental flag was immediately recalled and replaced by the national flag.

These are all the facts of which I am cognizant, connected with the planting of the first American flag upon the capitol of Mexico.

With much respect, your obedient servant,

G. B. CRITTENDEN,  
*Major Regiment Mounted Rifles.*

To the CHAIRMAN of the Committee on

*Military Affairs of the United States Senate.*

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WASHINGTON, D. C., *February 26, 1856.*

SIR: Complying with the request of your committee, communicated to me through your clerk, accompanied by a resolution of the Senate, and a copy of the letter of Captain B. S. Roberts, of the rifles, I have the honor to communicate to you such facts as fell under my observation, connected with the raising of flags at the battle of Chepultepec, the storming of the intervening batteries between that place and the Garita de Belen, at the Garita, and within the city of Mexico.

My command, the 2d Pennsylvania regiment, composed, with the battalion of marines, the 2d brigade of Major General Quitman's division. With the exception of one company, commanded by Captain James Miller, which was temporarily detached and placed in that portion of the storming party commanded by Major Twiggs, and fifteen men and one commissioned officer, who, upon requisition, volunteered from the other companies, composed part of the command of

Captain Reynolds, to bear, in aid of the storming parties, scaling ladders, axes, &c. Of these fifteen, *ten* were either killed or severely wounded. My regiment moved, under orders communicated to me personally by General Quitman, with General Shields' brigade, from our position in advance of Tacubaya, almost in a direct line across the marshy fields in front of the castle of Chepultepec. This charge was a sort of Lodi affair, our troops being within the range of every gun upon the south side of the castle and of the batteries at its base. When within fifty yards of the wall, I was struck with a ball, which caused a severe and painful contusion. Upon reaching the outer wall I directed my regiment to proceed around the left of the wall under the temporary command of Major (afterwards Lieutenant Colonel) Brindle, who gallantly led it into the castle, where I joined it again, and resumed the command before the American flag was raised upon the main flag-staff of the castle. Upon several parts of the fortress I observed a number of flags belonging to different corps of the army, amongst which was one belonging to a company of my own regiment. Owing to the haste with which it was organized and embarked for Mexico, my command was not at that time supplied with regimental colors, consequently a flag, which belonged to one of the companies, was used by the regiment when required. The first flag which entered the five-gun battery at the base of Chepultepec, was that which was carried by the assaulting party which stormed the work, and I have no doubt but that it was *the flag in question*.

General Quitman having previously communicated to me his design of attacking the Garita de Belen immediately after the capture of Chepultepec, and being myself desirous to expedite his intentions, I formed my command *instantly* while inside of the walls of the castle, and marched out, I believe, the first body of men which left the fortress; and while the regiment was descending the hill towards the city, the commander-in-chief was ascending to the castle. After being replenished with ammunition at the gate of the fortress, near the five-gun battery, we passed on with the column under the command of General Quitman, who at all times was with its front, to the attack of the battery midway upon the causeway between Chepultepec and the Garita de Belen. At that place I did not see any flag raised, nor do I think any was planted there, but if there had been, that honor could certainly have been obtained by the rifles, as that regiment was slightly in the advance, but owing to the celerity of the movements of the different commands, and the enthusiasm and emulation which prevailed amongst them, but a very brief period elapsed between their arrival at the same points, so much so, indeed, that it was exceedingly difficult to distinguish individual acts of gallantry from those in which the whole division shared equally. I cannot forbear to mention the fact, that, at this battery, I saw General Shields, and although he was severely wounded, as the troops passed him, he cheered them "onward to a glorious victory."

Having passed that battery and re-organized his division, General Quitman ordered its advance upon the Garita de Belen, and it moved steadily forward, under a terrible cannonade from the Garita, the citadel, and the surrounding batteries, along the blood-stained cause-



way, until we arrived at a point where we received a flank fire from the enemy, who were sheltered by a number of houses on the right of the aqueduct; there was also, in addition to the severe fire of artillery maintained upon the front of our column, a galling fire of musketry from about five thousand of the enemy's infantry, stationed in the citadel and upon the Paseo inside of the walls of the city on our left. There the column halted until two pieces of artillery, under Captain Drum, were brought forward and placed in battery against the houses on the right, from the shelter of which the enemy were soon driven. The final charge was then made, and after a sanguinary struggle the Garita was captured. Immediately upon its capture, I saw the gallant commander of our division waving a handkerchief, fixed upon a rifle, from the parapet of the gate. After many of the troops had arrived within the walls, General Quitman announced the fact that we were then in the city of Mexico, and were the first American troops who had passed its ramparts. Standing near the general at that moment, he asked General Smith and myself *to note the time*, which was *twenty minutes past one o'clock, p. m.*, and then he remarked, "whoever survives the action should remember that fact." Previous to this time I had observed no colors raised at the Garita; General Quitman then called for colors, which he was desirous to have raised as a symbol of victory over the Garita, for the benefit of the other portions of the American army. Lieutenant Selleck, of the Palmetto regiment, then acting as one of the general's staff officers, brought forward the colors of that regiment, and with the assistance of Captain Charles Naylor, of my regiment, placed them above the aqueduct in the Garita; while holding the flag in that position Lieutenant Selleck was severely wounded. This was on the right of the aqueduct. I did not see any other flag *regularly raised* there during the afternoon of that day. The rifle regiment occupied a stone building on the left of the aqueduct—the custom-house for that side of the city. I was afterwards informed some colors were there displayed, but I cannot say at what time. It is proper to remark that after the taking of the Garita, some of the guns there captured were turned on the enemy by Captain Drum, (4th artillery,) and when many of his company had fallen, their ranks were in part filled by men from my command, who worked the pieces until that gallant officer was killed at the side of his guns. During the afternoon, while we lay under the fire of about twenty pieces of artillery, and a severe discharge of musketry, several daring and bold attempts were made by the enemy to sally from their strong fortifications and drive us from our position inside the Garita, partially sheltered by a number of ornamental trees and a few dilapidated walls; but they were repulsed with great loss on their part, and several of their batteries were silenced. In this latter service Captains Loesier, Naylor, Humphreys and Taylor, of my command, were signally distinguished. No time was lost on the part of General Quitman, who had from the beginning to the end been in the thickest of the fight, in making preparations for assaulting the citadel upon the morning of the 14th. Several batteries were erected by us during the night, and the forces under his command were assigned to their particular duties—mine to assist in

the erection of the batteries, to protect our right from attack during the night on the Piedad road, and to command the storming party on the left in the contemplated attack of the citadel in the morning.

Early on the morning of the 14th of September, when everything was in readiness, and every corps awaiting orders to storm the citadel, a white flag was sent from that fortress to General Quitman, the bearers of which gave information to him that the city was being evacuated by the Mexican troops; whereupon General Quitman immediately formed his division and marched into the city, where our national flag was first displayed upon the palace of Mexico by *his* orders, having first left the South Carolina regiment in possession of the Garita de Belen, and assigned the second Pennsylvania regiment, under my command, for the garrison of the citadel, a place of great strength and importance, with orders to put it, without delay, in a condition for defence, and be as vigilant as though in the immediate presence of the enemy, adding "that upon the preservation of this stronghold might depend the safety of the whole command." I have no recollection of seeing any flag placed upon the citadel before the one in possession of my regiment was placed there, which was done as soon as I received orders to occupy that fortress.

In the attack and capture of the castle of Chapultepec and the city of Mexico, the breast of every one engaged in those unequal and terrible encounters was almost equally exposed, the shot and other missiles of the enemy often falling with more dire effect upon those midway and in the rear of the attacking columns than upon those in front. So many were conspicuous for their gallantry and good conduct, that it would, in my opinion, be difficult to discriminate between them, inasmuch as the signal successes of that day resulted from the combined force of the whole column that participated in that stern contest which terminated so gloriously, and shed unfading lustre upon American arms, in the capture of the city of Mexico. Successes of individual gallantry are often but the results of the combined action of the whole army. Honor sufficient was obtained to satisfy the ambition of any reasonable man who participated in those brilliant victories, and in which the gallant *dead*, whose blood enriches the soil, and whose bones whiten the plains of Mexico, should most largely share, for without them we could not have succeeded.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
JNO. W. GEARY,

*Late Colonel Second Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers.*

Hon. JOHN B. WELLER,

*Chairman of the Committee on Military Affairs.*

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WASHINGTON, D. C., *January 21, 1856.*

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a letter, sent by direction of the committee, requesting such information as I may possess in relation to the planting of the American flag upon the palace of the capitol of Mexico, &c., and enclosing a copy of a letter from Colonel B. S. Roberts, of the rifles, to General Twiggs; as also

a copy of a proposed Senate resolution "that an engrossed copy of said letter be deposited in the Department of State with the flag whose history it gives, and which has already been deposited in said department by order of the Senate."

During the occurrence of the events alluded to in the above mentioned letter, Colonel Roberts was under the command of Major General J. A. Quitman, and as I was the chief of staff to this officer, and an eye-witness to most of the transactions which took place, I feel competent to give an accurate account of the whole affair.

General Quitman's command during these events consisted of Smith's brigade of regulars, the volunteer division, in which was included the battalion of marines, the 9th infantry of Pierce's brigade, and a part of the 6th infantry. On the 12th of September, 1847, the day previous to the storming of Chepultepec, a detachment of 250 men from General Twiggs' division was reported to General Quitman for duty as stormers. In this temporarily organized battalion, commanded by Captain S. Casey, 2d infantry, Captain Roberts' company acted as "the color company," the colors being the small American flag referred to, and which it was understood had been in the possession of General Twiggs.

On the 13th of September this battalion, in connexion with a battalion from the volunteer division, performed its duty gallantly in the assault upon the work at the base of Chepultepec, its commander (Casey) being wounded, and the command then devolving upon Captain Paul, 7th infantry.—(See General Quitman's report of these operations.)

I have no recollection of the planting of any flag upon that work, but little attention being attracted to it, as the raising of our colors upon Chepultepec itself superseded and rendered unnecessary the raising of particular flags upon the adjuncts of that great work.

The different detachments composing this battalion of stormers then joined their respective regiments, and the command proceeded to the assault of the various batteries between it and the citadel of Mexico. I do not recollect seeing Captain Roberts or "the flag" again throughout that day. He says in his letter that he was "detained to guard the prisoners taken at the five-gun battery."

No flag was planted upon the battery between Chepultepec and the Garita, the troops in advance sweeping over it without halting, it being merely a point in our main progress. Nor was "this flag" the first planted upon the batteries at the Garita, or on the citadel of Mexico. Colonel Roberts was certainly misinformed in regard to these transactions.

A handkerchief waved by General Quitman was the first symbol of victory at the bloody Garita, and a call by the general for colors was answered by Lieutenant Selleck, of the South Carolina regiment, (since dead,) who, in placing the colors of his regiment upon the Garita, received a severe wound. I have understood that the rifle colors were displayed much about the same time on the other side of the aqueduct, but I did not see them.

On the following morning (the enemy having evacuated the city during the night) we marched into the citadel at daybreak. The

column was halted a few moments, and the 2d Pennsylvania regiment (Colonel Geary) was detailed to occupy this fortress as its garrison. Whilst this was being done, Captain Crittenden, of the rifles, applied for and received permission from General Quitman to run up the rifle regiment flag for a few moments over this strong citadel.

The column under General Quitman's command then moved on to the grand plaza (the rifles in advance) where it was halted. The troops, in column of companies, were in the position of "ordered arms," and at a "parade rest" occupying two sides of the square in front of the palace.

After remaining a few moments in this position, General Quitman directed me to have our colors placed on the flag-staff over the palace, saying, "let it be our national colors, the stars and stripes, not the particular colors of any regiment." Looking along the line, I observed but two national flags, one of which was with the New York regiment, at the further end of the line, the other much nearer to me, with Captain Roberts' company of the rifles. I told him to have this flag put up on the staff above the palace, and he proceeded at once with a file of men to do so, in obedience to the order received from the general through myself.

While he was thus engaged the troops were wheeled into line, officers ordered to the front, and when the flag was raised, arms were presented by command of General Quitman in person.

The above is the simple history of this transaction, and it would seem to me, that according to all military rule and precedent, whatever of credit or honor may be held to attach to the ceremony above narrated, is due to the senior officer (as representing his command) under whose immediate orders and direct personal supervision the whole transaction took place. On this point I coincide with the views expressed by Colonel Roberts in the last paragraph of his letter to the editor of the Union, dated St. Louis, Missouri, July 12, 1848.

I will add, that just before the national flag was displayed from the staff, an officer of the rifles waved the colors of his regiment from the balcony of the second story windows of the palace, a circumstance which did not receive the approval of the general commanding the division.

I remain, with much respect, sir, your obedient servant,

M. LOVELL.

The CHAIRMAN

*Of the Senate Committee on Military Affairs.*

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WASHINGTON, D. C., *February 26, 1856.*

GENTLEMEN: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your clerk's communication of the 15th ultimo, enclosing a copy of Captain Roberts' letter to General Twiggs of the 17th September, 1847, and a resolution of the Senate, and concluding with the request that I "will communicate to you any knowledge I may have of the planting of the *American* flag upon the palace of Mexico," &c.

As captain of company F, second regiment of Pennsylvania volunteers, I participated in the conquest of Mexico and in most of the specific movements to which the letter of Captain Roberts refers. I might reply to your communication by stating that I saw, upon the days covering the occasions spoken of by Captain Roberts, no *American*—that is to say, no *national*—flag anywhere, either raised or unraised, so far as I can remember. But as this would not properly answer your inquiry, nor do justice to the subject, I have no alternative other than to state, as briefly as possible, what *did* take place, so far as I saw, and can remember or have knowledge.

On the morning of the 13th of September, 1847, the assault was made on the castle (as it was termed) and works of Chepultepec. I belonged to the division of Major General Quitman, and moved with my command, on the right of my regiment, from the village of Tacubaya, along the main road leading to the city of Mexico, some distance, where we received directions from General Quitman to diverge from the road, cross the meadows directly in front of the castle, and move, with all possible dispatch, against the works of the enemy. The order was given us by the general personally, in the midst of a very severe fire, he pointing out to us with his sword the place where he wished us to strike the outer work of the enemy.

In executing the order we were obliged to wade through a succession of ditches upwards of five feet in depth, filled with water, and from ten to twelve feet in width. Upon gaining the wall of the works we (the Pennsylvania, South Carolina, and New York regiments) reformed our commands, scaled the wall, pushed up the hill, and, in conjunction with the other assaulting troops, stormed the inner works and took the castle. In doing this we were intermingled with a part of the command of Major General Pillow, the officers and men of the two divisions (Quitman's and Pillow's) struggling together as if in the same ranks.

The works being taken, the troops of the different commands were commingled together in great confusion, and there was great exultation among them. An order from General Quitman to re-form was received and instantly carried into effect. Two men from each company were then detailed to look after and take care of the wounded, and our (Quitman's) line was in readiness for the next movement.

At this moment occurred the first flag-raising of the day. A confused mass of troops were assembled in the spacious area fronting and adjoining the castle, and at one of the windows, in the second story, Gen. Cadwallader appeared and commenced a speech to the troops in front of him. Whilst he was speaking, some one displayed from the same window a flag. This was the first flag of any description I had seen that day. It was not an *American* flag, not the *national* flag, not the flag of the Union, but a flag, as I suppose, of one of the regiments or of one of the States. It was almost immediately taken in from the window, and in a few minutes thereafter was waved from the roof of the castle. An attempt was then made to run it up the flagstaff, but before it was raised, and whilst General Cadwallader was still speaking, General Quitman's command was ordered to march—the word was, "Quitman's division to the city"—and we moved, at once and rapidly,

down the hill of Chepultepec, along the main causeway towards the city of Mexico, leaving the castle behind us. In this movement the five-gun battery, mentioned in Captain Roberts' letter, was left on our right; and as I had nothing to do with the assault upon that battery, and had no official connexion with it afterwards, I have no knowledge whatever of any kind about the raising of a flag over it.

Continuing our movement rapidly along the causeway leading to the Belen gate of the city of Mexico, covering ourselves as well as we could from a very severe fire by the arches of the aqueduct, we assaulted the intermediate battery (mentioned in Captain Roberts' letter) between Chepultepec and the city gate. This was taken, and we passed through it and over it, but I saw no flag raised there, nor was there any attempt to raise one there, so far as I ever heard or had or have any knowledge.

From this intermediate battery, as it is termed in Captain Roberts' letter, elated with success and inspired with a spirit of generous rivalry, the troops pressed onwards to the city. In no part of the war had I before witnessed a charge so impetuous and through a fire so severe and destructive. The officers and men of the different commands soon began to intermingle, each putting forth his whole strength to be foremost. The gate was reached. General Quitman leading, leaped the ditch, mounted the breastwork, and waved his handkerchief, followed by as many of his command as could press themselves to the point. The position was taken, and the capital of Mexico was at that moment esteemed ours. General Persifer Smith, I remember well, pulled out his watch and coolly remarking that we were now in the city of Mexico, announced the hour and the minute.

The city had been taken at its strongest point, where it had been supposed impregnable, and our position within a few hundred yards of the citadel, containing, it was supposed, nearly ten thousand men, anything but a pleasant one. The fire was terrific and continued without interruption; and our troops were immediately set to work to establish themselves by throwing up such cover as their situation and means would afford.

After we had been there some time, it was suggested that a flag should be raised to announce our position and success to the other divisions of the army. General Quitman ordered a flag to be raised for the purpose. So far as I can remember, there was no *American* flag there; there was certainly none produced or exhibited. A young officer, (whose name, I am sorry to say, I do not recollect,) of the South Carolina regiment, brought forward the *Palmetto flag*, the flag of his regiment and State, and with two of his men and Lieut. Wilcox (of Quitman's staff) clambered to the top of a little shed adjoining the aqueduct, and upon the right of the gate as we enter the city, and from the top of that little shed he raised the *Palmetto flag* over the aqueduct, and there held it amid a tremendous fire, provoked for a time into increased severity upon that point by the display of the flag. There being no means to secure the flag in its place, General Quitman ordered it down; but before this could be done the gallant officer who had planted and held it was shot. I aided in getting him down. One of the two men who had charge of

the flag when his officer was wounded, was himself shot just as he leaped down from the shed, and he fell, with the flag in his hand, by the side of General Quitman, who was at this time in a greatly exposed position, smoking a cigar, as was his custom,—and inspiring the breasts of all around him with his own cheerful daring, unpretentious heroism, and confident security of an immediate, glorious, and final triumph.

No event of that day, with its subordinate surroundings, is more distinctly remembered by me than the flag-raising at the Garita de Belen. There are many circumstances, besides those herein stated, fixing it so strongly and definitely upon my mind, that I feel I cannot be mistaken. And it is due to the truth of history, since the Senate have thought proper to make it the subject of inquiry, that it should be accurately and definitely stated exactly as it took place. As far as my remembrance serves me, I have endeavored so to state it. Whatever may be the value of the statement, in other respects, it is certainly disinterested.

I know of no other flag planted at the gate of Belen on the 13th of September, 1847, than the one I have just mentioned. There certainly was no *American* flag planted there or visible there on that day.

A fire of the most destructive severity was continued upon us, without intermission, the whole afternoon, and the remaining strength of his little and fast-diminishing command was sorely taxed, under our cool, cheerful, indefatigable, and most gallant general, in the maintenance of his position and the preparation for the final overthrow of the citadel and city at the dawn of the next morning. In repelling our enemy's assaults, taking their batteries and assailing points, driving them from all their surrounding positions, annoying them through their embrasures, filling up ditches, building up works for final operations, looking after the wounded thick falling around us, and laying aside the dead with such respect as circumstances permitted, the afternoon passed, and, at night-fall, the enemy's fire ceased,—but with it came no cessation of labor, nor one minutes' rest.

During the whole night of the 13th and 14th of September, the command of General Quitman worked without interruption, in throwing up breastworks, getting up guns, ammunition, &c., preparatory for storming the citadel at daylight, on the morning of the 14th.

From this, however, exhausted as we were by disease, hunger, battle, privation, and labor protracted incessantly for days and nights previous, we were glad to be relieved, at the gray of the dawn of the morning, (when all our dispositions had been made for the assault,) by the appearance of two men, a Mexican commission, bearing a white flag, and delivering to General Quitman the keys of the citadel, and giving the intelligence of the silent retreat of the enemy, then leaving the city.

Our general, having first satisfied himself that no treachery was intended, and leaving the South Carolina regiment at the Garita, marched his division into the citadel, and after a brief halt, the Second Pennsylvania regiment (commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Geary) to which I belonged, was left to garrison the place. General Quitman then, with the balance of his command, marched into the heart of the city and took possession of the National palace.

The moment he was assigned the honor of garrisoning the citadel, Colonel Geary caused the flag of his regiment, the Pennsylvania flag, to be run up on the flag-staff. This was the first flag, and only flag, I remember to have seen raised over the citadel on that day, and this was the flag of Pennsylvania. I am certain that no *American* flag was so raised. Yet I have some indistinct recollection of seeing the flag of the rifles somewhere about the citadel.

Thus left as part of the garrison of the citadel, I personally, from my own observation, know nothing of the raising of the *American* flag over the palace.

On the morning of the 17th of September I was detached, from my regiment, to take charge of the palace, and a large *American* flag was then floating over it.

It was old, nearly worn out, fast going to pieces; had graced most of our Mexican triumphs, and I supposed it to be, at the time, the first *American* flag which had been raised there. Anxious to preserve it, on the 30th of September I reported its condition to General Quitman and asked for an order for a new one. The order was given. A new one of the largest size, 40 feet fly and 20 feet hoist, was made, and, on the 15th of October, it was raised and continued from that time to float over the palace till the day of our evacuation of the city, the 12th of June, 1848.

The old flag, by order of General Quitman, I sent to General Worth; and I was then informed by the latter, that the old flag, thus delivered by me, to him, had been sent, by him, to General Quitman on the morning of the 14th September, he understanding that General Quitman, though taking the palace, had no suitable flag to raise over it.

Upon my reporting to General Quitman that I had executed his orders, he gave me, for the first time, an account of the first flag-raising, and of some difficulty he had in procuring an *American* flag for the purpose. He stated that an attempt was made, among others, to raise the flag of the rifles, and that he prevented it, on the ground that no other but an *American* flag—the flag of the Union—should be raised over the national palace of the conquered capital to represent an *American* triumph. In this he finally succeeded,—and my impression was, at the time, that the first *American* flag ever run up the *flag-staff of the palace* was the large one, I have spoken of, as returned by me to General Worth.

It is certain, I believe, that when General Quitman took the palace he encountered some delay, or had some slight difficulty, to find a flag for it. This fact, itself, is illustrative of the history of the war and of the success of our arms. In plain truth, the nature of our business and the exigencies, every moment pressing upon us, were such, that flags could not be carried nor displayed. For the pomp and parade of war, if such things ever are, there was surely no room there. The men who won Mexico carried the flags of their country in their hearts, and they planted them, invisible, upon every rampart they mounted, and on every field where they left their blood or their lives.

It is also certain, with respect to the first flag on the palace—whether the flag of the rifles, the small *American* flag referred to by Captain Roberts, or the large garrison flag of General Worth's—whichever it was, it was raised by order of General Quitman, who,



with a little column of exhausted men who had been on continued duty by day and night since the 11th—stormed the capital at its strongest defences, first marched into its heart, and took the palace, representative of its empire.

By his order (when the battle was won and any hand could do the deed) the American flag was floated over the palace; and if this act can, by any possibility, reflect any distinctive glory upon any one, or any branch of the army in particular more than another, it should be shared by all whom he had the honor to lead, and above all and especially, by him whom they had the honor to follow. But, in sober truth, and common justice, and sound soldierly feeling, it should be shared by the whole army alike, for it was the consummation of the efforts and sufferings of the whole army, alike united, under the greatest of captains, to that end. If it fell, as it did, to the gallant Quitman and his command to be the first to reach the national palace, it was as much the result of their opportunity as of their merit.

General Quitman is able, I presume, to designate the *flag* first raised, and thus settle the question beyond dispute and forever.

The new flag, made by his order, was taken down by me, for the last time, on the 12th of June, 1848, the day of the evacuation of the city of Mexico, and was forwarded to Adjutant General Jones, United States army, and was, for some years thereafter, exhibited in the exhibition room of the National Institute at Washington. A section of the flag staff of the palace was also sent him by me, and is now to be seen in the room of the National Institute. Reports were sent with both the flag and the flag staff, and are, I presume, now on file in the Adjutant General's office.

I have entered somewhat into detail in this communication, rendered necessary to be intelligible, and because the letter of Captain Roberts covered almost the whole of our movements of the 13th and 14th of September, 1847, and laid claim for an especial and more comprehensive distinction, for a particular flag, than the facts of the case, so far as I saw, by any means warranted.

With great respect, I have the honor to be, your obedient servant,  
CHARLES NAYLOR.

Hon. JOHN B. WELLER,  
*Chairman Committee on Military Affairs of the Senate.*

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CAPTAIN NAYLOR'S SUPPLEMENT.

*To the Honorable John B. Weller,  
Chairman of the Military Committee of the Senate:*

Since submitting my letter of the 26th ultimo I feel it my duty to add, by way of supplement, the following correspondence relating to the subject of your inquiry.

It seems to me due to the memory of our country's gallant dead, and it may be necessary for the elucidation of the truth of our flag-raising history, &c.: at all events it is a part of the history of the subject, recorded as it were by daguerreotype, as it occurred from day to day. The correspondence, it will be perceived, relates to two palace

flags, which were termed the old and the new, and so blends the history of them together as to make it necessary to give the whole correspondence, which I do, chronologically, in the order of its occurrence.

On the day of its date I sent the following letter to General Quitman:

“ NATIONAL PALACE,  
“ *Mexico, September 30, 1847.*

“SIR: Our flag, I regret to state, is nearly worn out; I am obliged to have its rents sewed up every night; it is daily diminishing in length and thus losing its proportions. I would respectfully recommend that a new one be made, of the same size, preserving its original proportions. If it meet your approbation I will have one manufactured at once,—if the material can be procured here.

“With the greatest respect, I am, very truly, your obedient servant,  
“CHARLES NAYLOR,  
“ *Superintendent of National Palace.*

“Major General QUITMAN,  
“ *Civil and Military Governor.*”

The foregoing letter (endorsed “Approved—J. A. Quitman, Major General and Governor, October 2, 1847,”) was returned to me enclosed in the following:

“ OFFICE OF THE CIVIL AND MILITARY GOVERNOR,  
“ *National Palace, October 2, 1847.*

“CAPTAIN: I have the honor to transmit to you your requisition upon the governor as to a new national flag for the use of the palace, approved by him. You are, therefore, at liberty to procure one at your earliest convenience.

“With great respect and esteem, your obedient servant,  
“GEO. T. M. DAVIS, *Secretary.*

“Captain CHARLES NAYLOR,  
“ *Superintendent, &c., National Palace.*”

On the day of its date the following letter was handed General Quitman:

“ NATIONAL PALACE, *Mexico, October 15, 1847.*

“GENERAL: The new national flag is finished. It is of the largest size, 40 by 20 English feet, and its proportions are in exact conformity with the regulations of the United States upon the subject. It was made by Mrs. Louisa Baker, an American lady from the United States, now resident in Mexico; and she has made it in the most substantial and beautiful manner. I propose raising it at once.

“With great respect, I am, very truly, your obedient servant,  
“CHARLES NAYLOR,  
“ *Captain United States Army,*  
“ *Superintendent of National Palace.*

“Major General QUITMAN,  
“ *Civil and Military Governor.*”

The Mrs. Louisa Baker, mentioned in the foregoing letter, was from Germantown, in Philadelphia county, Pennsylvania, and had lived some years in Mexico. Her husband, Benjamin Baker, also an American, had been banished from Mexico by Santa Anna, because of his Americanism, whilst our army was at Puebla, suffered much in our cause, and managed, after his banishment, to reach our headquarters, and became efficient as a guide and an interpreter. Mrs. Baker assembled at her house all the *American ladies* of her acquaintance in Mexico to assist her in making the flag, and not a stitch would she permit to enter it but what was put there by the fair fingers of an American woman. For want of a more competent person, Captains G. T. M. Davis and Lovell, of Quitman's staff, and myself, cut out the stars, and pinned them in their appropriate places in the blue field. All else beside was done by our fair countrywomen.

On the 15th of October, 1847, the new flag was raised, and in the "DAILY AMERICAN STAR" of the next day, "Saturday, October 16, 1847," both the new flag and the old one was noticed, editorially,—which notice I have copied from a paper of that date, a part of a file now in my possession. It will be seen that it speaks of both flags, the new and the old, and may fairly be supposed to give the feelings and opinions of the soldiers with regard to the latter.

This paper was published by "Peoples & Barnard." John H. Peoples was a soldier and a printer. Serving as a soldier till Vera Cruz fell, he there established his printing press. Thence, first fighting and then printing, he moved with the army, setting up his press and issuing his "AMERICAN STAR," at Jalapa, Puebla, and Mexico. As a soldier and a printer, with his musket and his press, he was certainly no bad *type* of American character and progress. He thus notices our flags, and I give his testimony:

[From the "Daily American Star," Mexico, October 16, 1847.]

"NEW FLAG ON THE PALACE.

"Flag of the free heart's only home,  
By angel hands to valour given,  
Thy stars have lit the welkin dome,  
And all thy hues were born in Heaven.

"A new American flag, of the very largest size, was yesterday raised upon the national palace, by Captain Naylor, and it now, in spirit-stirring magnificence, streams out its folds to the free winds. There are many things beautiful in this land, afar off from our heart's home, but, to us, there is nothing so affectingly beautiful as this, our starry banner. We are informed that it was made by a lady from Philadelphia, now resident in this city. The old flag, to which it succeeds, was nearly worn out; it was fast frittering away. It is the first American flag that waved over Vera Cruz, Cerro Gordo, Jalapa, Puebla, and Mexico, and represents every victory of the American army achieved by General Scott's division. It is, therefore, sacred, and we trust, as such may be preserved."

John H. Peoples, the soldier-editor of the "Star," who, I presume, wrote this notice, is dead. He was drowned in the Pacific ocean, near

San Francisco, engaged in the extension of the dominion of that "starry banner," which he declared in the foregoing article, was to him, so "affectingly beautiful." The brave fellow had a manhood and a history, and I could not forbear the cold justice of giving to *you* his testimony, and to *him* this notice.

On the 18th of October, 1847, I was ordered, by General Quitman, to send the old flag, thus above noticed, to General Worth, which was done, with the following letter :

NATIONAL PALACE, MEXICO, *October 18, 1847.*

GENERAL: Herewith, by order of Major General Quitman, I send you the old flag which has been, till within the last few days, floating over the national palace. I believe that the presence of this old flag has graced nearly every triumph which American valor has achieved in Mexico. Representing, as it does, the *glory* of our arms, it is fitted that its keeping should thus be committed to one whose conduct and gallantry have contributed so largely to swell the volume of that glory.

With the highest respect, I am, very truly, your obedient servant,  
 CHARLES NAYLOR,  
*Captain 2d Pennsylvania Volunteers, and  
 Superintendent of National Palace.*

Major General WORTH,  
*United States Army.*

To this note I received the following reply :

HEADQUARTERS FIRST DIVISION,  
*Mexico, October 18, 1847.*

MY DEAR SIR: I have received the flag which, on the 14th ultimo, I sent to my gallant friend General Quitman, ignorant that he was supplied with a standard to raise over the palace; that flag is now replaced by one more broadly and lordly reflecting the achievements of our arms and the glory of our country. I beg of you to accept my cordial acknowledgments for the very obliging manner and kind terms in which it has been returned, invested as it is with interesting associations to my soldiers, officers, and men.

With high respect, very truly,

W. J. WORTH,  
*Brevet Major General United States Army.*  
 Captain CHARLES NAYLOR,  
*Superintendent of National Palace.*

It was not till the receipt of this letter that I was aware that the flag sent by me to General Worth was his flag. I had supposed it to have been sent him by General Quitman as a compliment from one brave soldier to another; hence my letter, addressed to General Worth, gave the matter that turn. Upon meeting him soon afterwards, he explained the subject, as I have before stated in the body of my letter to your committee, viz: that he sent it to Quitman, because he understood, having taken the palace, he was in want of a

proper flag for it. It is very evident, therefore, that, after General Quitman had taken the palace, he found some difficulty to procure colors suitable for it, having none of his own in all respects answering the purpose. What may be the merit of the man who procured these colors, or raised them when procured, it is not for me to determine. On the day of its date, I sent the following to General Quitman:

“ NATIONAL PALACE, MEXICO,  
“ October 20, 1847.

“ GENERAL: I respectfully report to you now, what ought to have been reported before, that, on the morning of the 18th instant, agreeable to an order communicated by your aid-de-camp, Lieutenant Lovell, I sent to General W. J. Worth the old national flag, and have received from him a note acknowledging the receipt of it.

“ With the highest respect, I have the honor to be your obedient servant,

“ CHARLES NAYLOR,  
“ *Superintendent of National Palace.*

“ To Major General QUITMAN,  
“ *Civil and Military Governor.*”

Pursuing, by documents, this flag history still further, with a view to connect the memories of the dead with it, and to sustain the statements of my letter, let me repeat that the flag was finally taken down from the palace at sunrise on the 12th of June, 1848, in the presence of the whole people of the city of Mexico, men, women, and children, congregated in the great square, covering the roofs of the cathedral and of the neighboring houses. The final direction for this purpose was given by Major General Worth, who, in an order addressed to me personally, described particularly the manner in which the flag was to be lowered—on the firing of the thirtieth gun, (the close of the salute,) and amidst the music of the “Star-spangled Banner” from the whole band of his division. His personal order to me, I am unable, in the present confusion of my papers, to lay my hands upon; but give the following final order from him on the subject, addressed to Colonel Clarke, then commanding the brigade of the palace—now General Clarke—and who communicated the order to me for my observance, and furnished me the detail of men therein mentioned:

“ HEADQUARTERS, FIRST DIVISION,  
“ *Mexico, June 11, 1848.*

“ COLONEL: General Worth desires that you will designate suitable men, acting under the direction of Captain Naylor, gradually to lower the flag, on the discharge of the thirtieth gun, to-morrow morning, when Captain Naylor will dispose of it in accordance with the orders already received from general headquarters. The latter must be done with dispatch, as the column will move in a few minutes thereafter.

“ I am, colonel, very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
“ WM. F. BARRY, *A. D. C*

“ Colonel CLARKE,  
“ *Commanding 2d Brigade.*”

I have thus followed our American flag history, in the city of Mexico, from its first planting there till our evacuation of the place.

Truly, your obedient servant,

CHARLES NAYLOR.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *March 3, 1856.*







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